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IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE  
OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY-CHAPTER II

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

APPLICANTS: Christoph Capellaro et al. DOCKET NO: P99,2497

SERIAL NO: GROUP ART UNIT:

EXAMINER:

10 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/DE98/01693

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 19 June 1998

15 INVENTION: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENCODING,  
TRANSMITTING AND DECODING A DIGITAL  
MESSAGE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231

20 Sir:

Please amend the above-identified International Application before entry into the National stage before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 35 U.S.C. §371 as follows:

**In The Specification:**

On page 1, cancel lines 1-5 and substitute therefor:

25 **--S P E C I F I C A T I O N**

**TITLE**

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENCODING, TRANSMITTING  
AND DECODING A DIGITAL MESSAGE**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

30 **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates, generally, to a method and apparatus for encoding, transmitting and decoding a digital message and, more specifically, to such a method and apparatus wherein cryptographic security